

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03334 170840Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-20 IO-14 /102 W
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R 161245Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8328
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS BEIRUT 3334

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT LE
SUBJ: ZGHARTAWIS BLAME PHALANGE FOR TONY FRANJIYAH ASSASSINATION

1. SUMMARY: A GROUP OF NORTHERN LEADERS JUNE 15 ISSUED
A COMMUNIQUE BLAMING THE JUNE 13 PHALANGIST RAID ON
IHDEN WHICH RESULTED IN THE DEATH OF TONY FRANJIYAH
SQUARELY ON THE PHALANGE PARTY, AND ACCUSING THE
PHALANGE OF SEEKING TO PROVOKE RIVALRIES BETWEEN
ZGHARTA AND BECHARRE. END SUMMARY.

2. L'ORIENT-LE JOUR JUNE 16 CARRIES EXTRACTS FROM A
COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY A NEWLY CONSTITUTED "POLITICAL
COMMAND ORGANIZATION" OF LEBANON'S NORTHERN REGION.
IT WAS SIGNED BY FATHER SEMAAN DOUEYHI (DEPUTY
FROM BECHARRE), RENE MOWAD (DEPUTY FROM ZGHARTA),
SALIM KHARAM, ROBERT BOULOS AND ROBERT FRANJIYAH
(YOUNGER BROTHER OF TONY FRANJIYAH). EXTRACTS AS
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FOLLOWS:

3. "THE CONSCIENCE OF THE WORLD HAS BEEN SHOCKED BY
THE COWARDLY MURDERS ORGANIZED BY THE PHALANGE PARTY
AND WHICH RESULTED IN 33 VICTIMS, INCLUDING OLD MEN,
WOMEN AND CHILDREN AS WELL AS OUR COLLEAGUE AND
BROTHER TONY FRANJIYAH, HIS WIFE AND THEIR DAUGHTER . . .

THE GRAVITY OF THIS CRIME DOES NOT LIE IN THE FACT THAT IT WAS PERPETRATED AT IHDEN, WHICH WAS WITHOUT DEFENSES, NOR IN THE FASHION OR ATROCIOUS MANNER IN WHICH IT WAS COMMITTED; ITS GRAVITY IS THAT THIS CRIME CONSTITUTES A LINK IN THE CHAIN OF CONSPIRACY WHICH SEEKS TO DESTROY OUR NATION AND OUR PEOPLE . . . TONY FRANJIYAH IS DEAD BECAUSE HE STRUGGLED TO HIS LAST BREATH FOR THE UNITY OF LEBANON, TO PRESERVE ITS REALITY AND ITS CONSTITUTIONAL INSTITUTIONS. HE WAS ASSASSINATED BECAUSE HE REPRESENTED A RALLYING POINT FOR ALL THOSE FORCES SEEKING THE REUNIFICATION OF LEBANESE RANKS AND THE PRESERVATION OF LEBANON'S ARAB RELATIONS . . . TONY FRANJIYAH WAS STRUCK DOWN BECAUSE HE WAS THE SON OF ZGHARTA, THIS CITADEL WHICH SAFEGUARDS THE INTERESTS OF LEBANON, ZGHARTA WHICH PARTICIPATED WITH LOYALTY IN THE WAR OF RESISTANCE AND AFTER THAT WAR REJECTED THE METHODS OF TERRORISM AND REPRESSION BY ARMED BANDS, OF WHICH NUMEROUS INNOCENT CITIZENS WERE THE VICTIMS . TODAY, AFTER THE REVOLTING MASSACRE AT IHDEN, THE PHALANGE PARTY IS TRYING TO FOMENT DISCORD BETWEEN ZGHARTA AND BECHARRE, BUT THIS EFFORT WILL NOT SUCCEED BECAUSE ZGHARTA AND BECHARRE ARE THE PILLARS OF LEBANON. THEY RESIST THE DOMINATION OF THE PHALANGE AND FIGHT ALL ITS AMBITIONS. THE PHALANGE PARTY IS LIKEWISE ATTEMPTING TO DIVIDE THE REGION OF ZGHARTA-ZAWYE, UNCLASSIFIED

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BUT ITS UNITY REMAINS UNSHAKEABLE . . . THE BLOOD OF THE INNOCENT GIRL OF THREE YEARS WHICH WAS SPILLED IS A CALL TO THE CONSCIENCE OF LEBANON AND OF THE WORLD. ZGHARTA, FOUNDATION OF THE MARONITE COMMUNITY, WILL NOT TOLERATE A SINGLE STAIN ON ITS HISTORY. IT COMMITS ITSELF BEFORE ALL LEBANESE TO PURSUE ITS MISSION WHATEVER THE PRICE TO PAY AND WHATEVER THE SACRIFICES IN THE ABSENCE OF THE MARTYR TONY FRANJIYAH, AS IF HE WERE STILL ALIVE . . . ZGHARTA IS CAPABLE OF CONFRONTING EVERY ATTACK AGAINST IT OR AGAINST THE NATIONAL INTEREST." LANE

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Message Attributes

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